

**REPORT TO THE IOWA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**ANATOMICAL GIFTS**

**ANNUAL DONATION AND COMPLIANCE REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR 2006**

**Submitted by**

**Iowa Department of Public Health**

**in conjunction with the**

**Iowa Donor Network**

**and the Iowa Lions Eye Bank**

## **Introduction**

Iowa is served by one organ procurement organization; Iowa Donor Network (IDN). In contract with the Iowa Lions Eye Bank (ILEB), the Iowa Donor Network serves as the human tissue referral agency (eyes, bone, skin, tendons and heart valves) for the state. ILEB conducts cornea distribution and most human eye recovery services. The organizations cooperate closely with Iowa hospitals to promote and accomplish organ, eye, and tissue donations. In 1996, the Iowa Legislature created the Anatomical Gift Public Awareness and Transplantation Fund. County treasurers seek contributions to this fund when Iowans register or renew registration on their motor vehicles. In 2004, an organ and tissue donation awareness license plate was created for Iowa motorists. A \$35 charge for the plate plus \$10 renewal fee, in addition to the normal fee, is provided to the Awareness Fund. The Anatomical Gift Public Awareness Advisory Committee advises the Iowa Department of Public Health on grants to be made from contributed funds. Iowa Code § 142C.17 requires the department, in conjunction with any statewide organ procurement organization, to submit an annual donation and compliance report.

## **Donor Referrals**

The organ donor referrals in Iowa through the third quarter of 2006 were 304, compared to 289 for the same period in 2005. Through the third quarter of 2006 there were 3,849 medically eligible tissue donor referrals made from Iowa hospitals. This is a decrease from the 4,592 referrals received for the same period in 2005. Every general hospital in the state made at least one organ or tissue donation referral in the first three-quarters of 2006. In addition, as mandated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, IDN received 2740 Reports of Death referrals from Iowa hospitals.

Of the 304 patient deaths referred to IDN for organ donation evaluation, 32 became organ donors. This represents a 14 percent decrease in actual organ donors for the same time period in 2005. As of September 30, 2005, 2864 referrals were made to Iowa Lions Eye Bank compared with 1914 for the same time period in 2004. This increase is due to ILEB receiving all daytime referrals since May 2005, and expansion of the research areas since July 2005. Year to date in 2005, 442 Iowans became eye donors, compared to 402 for the same time period in 2004, resulting in a 10 percent increase in eye donations.

## **Organs and Tissues Recovered**

Not every referral results in a suitable organ or tissue donation. Consent for donation and medical suitability must also be considered. Through the third quarter of 2006, there were 32 organ donors in Iowa. These donors contributed 113 organs for transplantation. This statistic is equal to the same time period in 2005. The number of organs recovered per donor increased from 3.65 to 4.06.

Additionally, 210 Iowans donated bone and other non-vascular tissues for transplantation through September 2006. This represents a 9% decrease from the same period as last year. Heart valves for corrective and life-saving surgeries were obtained from 43 deceased donors during this time period. Additionally, 193 Iowans contributed, upon death, much-needed skin for burn treatment.

The Iowa Lions Eye Bank recovered 488 corneas for sight saving/restoring surgery and another 377 eyes were recovered and provided for important research into the causes of blindness. Through September 30, 2006, 57 eyes were imported from donors in other states to provide Iowans with sight saving transplants. This is a 95 percent increase compared to last year. There is no waiting list for corneal transplants in Iowa due to the generosity of Iowans and the nationwide network of eye banks working to provide the gift of sight. Compared to 2005, there was a 1 percent decrease in eye tissue donated by Iowans for transplant in 2006, and an 8 percent decrease in eye tissue donated for research. While donations for transplantation are decreasing, the demand for sight saving surgeries is on the rise due to new techniques developed in part at the University of Iowa, with the Iowa Lions Eye Bank.

### **Medicare Rules**

In August of 1998, the Health Care Financing Administration (now the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) promulgated regulations designed to increase organ and tissue donation. The rules are part of the Hospital Conditions of Participation for the Medicare and Medicaid programs. The rules require "a hospital to have an agreement with the Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) designated by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), under which the hospital will contact the OPO in a timely manner about individuals who die, or whose deaths are imminent in the hospital. The OPO will then determine each individual's medical suitability for donation. The hospital must also have an agreement with at least one tissue bank and at least one eye bank to cooperate in the retrieval, processing, preservation, storage and distribution of tissue and eyes, as long as the agreement does not interfere with organ donation. The final rule requires a hospital to ensure, in collaboration with the OPO with which it has an agreement, the family of every potential donor is informed of its option to donate organs or tissues or not to donate."

### **Contributions**

Contributions provided through county treasurers and the license plate program to the Anatomical Gift Public Awareness and Transplantation Funds were \$53,485 in fiscal year 2006. This is \$1,384 more than provided in fiscal year 2005. This revenue represents a rate of 1.82¢ per capita (based on population of 2,943,451), up from 1.78¢ per capita in fiscal year 2005. The county treasurers, the Anatomical Gift Public Awareness Advisory Committee, the Iowa Donor Network and the Iowa Lions Eye Bank continue to explore ways to increase awareness of the contribution opportunity and contributions to the fund.

## **Community Grants**

Payment from the Anatomical Gift Public Awareness and Transplantation Fund totaled \$17,525 in fiscal year 2006. This included public awareness activities, organ transplantation procedures and related patient costs, and development of the donor registry. Of these payments, \$613.92 covered administrative costs.

## **Donor Registry**

Chapter 1052, Acts of the 2000 General Assembly authorized the director of the Department of Public Health to contract for the establishment of a statewide organ and tissue donor registry. As specified, the contract shall provide for a centralized database and automated system to make organ and tissue donor information available to family members and physicians seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day. The Iowa Donor Network (IDN) launched such a registry, [www.iowadonorregistry.org](http://www.iowadonorregistry.org) on March 18, 2002. To date, more than 50,000 Iowans have registered their intentions to become organ and tissue donors upon death. At this time, due to lack of state resources (funding and personnel), there is no electronic sharing of information between IDN, the Department of Transportation and county treasurers offices regarding the donor status of Iowa licensed drivers. This automatic link may be possible in the future.

## **Summary**

As indicated in this report, the organ and tissue donation program continues to serve a significant number of Iowans. Although organ donations slightly decreased during this time period, the same number of patients received life-saving transplants as in the previous time period. Unfortunately, as of November 2006, the number of citizens continuing to wait for lifesaving organ transplants had climbed to 392. This represents an increase of 11 people over the same period last year. Efforts to increase public awareness and acceptance of organ and tissue donation must continue and be fostered by every practicing nurse, physician, social worker, paramedic, law enforcement official, hospital administrator and funeral director in Iowa. The Anatomical Gift Public Awareness Advisory Committee, the Iowa Donor Network, the Iowa Lions Eye Bank, and the IDPH will continue to promote increased organ and tissue donation and explore ways to increase public awareness of the opportunity to donate organs and tissues.